Power Transmission Corporation has formulated a scheme to raise Rs. 7,000 crores in foreign exchange during the Eighth Five Year Plan period from external borrowings to finance its projects; and

(b) if so, the extent the NPTC has been able to raise the foreign exchange and what are the projects that are likely to be funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Proposals of National Power Transmission Corporation for the Eighth Five Year Plan have not been finalised so far.

Priority to Rural Communications

4047. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord priority to rural communications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for it, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to make telephone available practically on demand in the rural areas by the end of 8th Five year Plan (1992-97). Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat villages in the country progressively by 31.3.1995. A total outlay of Rs. 6800 crores has been proposed for this work.

Doordarshan Programmes to Neighbouring Countries

4048. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge investment plan is being worked out by his Ministry in consultation with the department of telecommunications to build up the infrastructure for extending the reach of Doordarshan programmes to the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed plan; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

S.P.G. Cover to Former Prime Ministers

4049. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SPG cover is being provided to former Prime Ministers, S/Shri Morarji Desai, V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar;

(b) the details of family members of these former Prime Ministers who are presently being provided SPG cover;

(c) the details of the family members of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Ministers who are being provided SPG cover;

(d) whether the family members of late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister, are entitled for similar security; and